

HRIC Executive Committee

8/15/05

Meeting Notes

1) Job Corps - Diane Jones, Center Director, Robert Sabochik, CEO of Alutiig, the corporation contracted by ResCare to operate the Center, and Serg Davidenoff, VP of Operations for ResCare attended the meeting. They expressed their commitment to getting the Center back on track after a period of falling enrollments. They pointed to their history of operating successful Job Corps Centers, and their confidence that Northlands can be turned into a successful center. They have reviewed the recommendations of the HRIC's Council on Youth and are in agreement with these ideas. Since taking over the Center last month, they have been working on internal management and staffing issues, and expect to begin introducing themselves around the State this fall. The Executive Committee offered them any assistance they might need in this regard. Diane Jones, as Center Director is a member of the HRIC, and will be attending the Council's meetings.

2) Business Meetings - Debrief on 8/12/05 Business Partner Meeting and Workforce plans for the Workforce Challenge Meeting on Sept. 1. Chip reviewed the results of the August 12 meeting with business leaders, a copy is attached below. It was agreed to send these results out to the participants and as a follow-up, to invite them to attend the working session at the Nov. 9 HRIC meeting in Stowe. Discussion followed to the effect that we need a plan for the HRIC as an organization, and then a plan for the workforce system as a whole. The effectiveness of the WIBs remains a priority and a concern. They have big responsibilities and very limited resources.

We recognize that businesses are investing in training their workers, however doing this cost-effectively, especially for small businesses, is a challenge. Expanded partnerships with the public sector would benefit businesses and the public delivery system, however the public resources necessary to fuel these partnerships, particularly the Federal resources, are often too narrowly targeted on particular populations. It seems that an expanded role and leadership from the State is going to be necessary. The needs of the employer community in regards to training need to be clearly articulated, and the HRIC should be the entity to do that work.

Our business plan should include; identification of the important segments of the State's economy, the education and training needs of those sectors, and the resources necessary to meet those needs. To accomplish this, we need to convene employers, legislators, agency leaders, and the administration. It was agreed that this should be the goal for our November 9 Fall Council meeting. We will discuss this strategy and the agenda for that meeting at our Sept. 19 Executive Committee meeting.

6) Report on Youth in Agriculture Legislative Tour - Chip reported on the August 10 tour that he organized to support the work of the Youth in Agriculture Committee that was established by the Legislature. Attendees included, Representative George Cross, Senator Kittell, Lynn Bondurant - Director of Smokey House, Tim Flynn - Curriculum Coordinator at U-32 HS, Jim Greenwood Jim, Tom Hark - Director of YCC, Paul Haskell - Council on Youth Chair, Doug Lantagne - UVM, Pat McDonald, Ken Saxe - Director of Special Ed at U-32, Tobin Polly - YCC, John Whitney, representing Senator Don Collins, Sen. David Zuckerman. These two programs are excellent examples of agriculture and natural resource based secondary programs that have significant educational content. Both operate with limited funding, however they represent models that could benefit many more students.

The purpose of the tour was to acquaint the participants with these programs and to provoke thinking about how such programs could become part of the public education entitlement so that all students who could benefit could participate. The Youth in Ag Committee will meet in the fall and debrief on their observations.

7) Updates:

a) Executive Order status - We will revisit this, and Council membership after the November Council meeting

b) HRIC Budget Project Report - Jerry has been meeting with VDOL staff and has a prototype budget ready.

c) HRIC role in pending Legislation to allow out of school youth to enroll at VAL - The Council is supportive, however this was tabled for later discussion

d) NGA Grant - Review of our areas of interest and discussion of next steps - It was agreed that the council should provide \$1,500 toward the cost of applying for the NGA Micro Tech Grant.